

# COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

*"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."*

VOL. I. NEW-RICHMOND, JANUARY 21, 1825. NO. 20.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY A. C. & J. HERRON, AT \$1 50  
CTS. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

## History.

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afterwards publicly burnt by the enraged populace; the stamps were seized and destroyed, unless brought on board of men of war, or kept in fortified places. Those who were to receive the stamp duties, were compelled to resign their offices; and such of the Americans as favoured the government on this occasion, had their houses plundered and burned.

Though these outrages were committed by the multitude, they were connived at by those of superior rank, who afterwards openly patronised them; and the doctrine became general and openly avowed, that Britain had no right to tax the colonies without their own consent. The ministry now found it absolutely necessary either to yield to the Americans, by repealing the obnoxious laws, or to enforce them by arms.

The ferment had become general through the colonies. Virginia first, and afterwards all the rest of the provinces, declared against the right of Britain to tax America: and, that every attempt to vest others with this power, besides the king, or the governor of the province, and his general assembly, was illegal, unconstitutional, and unjust. Non-importation agreements were every where entered into; and it was resolved, to prevent the sale of any

more British goods after the present year. American manufactures though dearer, as also inferior in quality to the British, were universally preferred. An association was also entered into against eating of lamb, in order to promote the growth of wool; and the ladies agreed to renounce the use of every kind of ornament imported from Great Britain.

Such a general and alarming confederacy determined the ministry to repeal some of the most obnoxious acts; and to this they were the more inclined by a petition from the first American Congress, held at New-York, in 1765.

The Stamp act was therefore, repealed, to the universal joy of the Americans, as well as to the general satisfaction of the English, whose manufactures had begun to suffer, in consequence of American association against them. The disputes on the subject, however, were by no means silenced; every one continued to argue the cause as violent as ever. Dr. Benjamin Franklin was on this occasion examined before the house of Commons; and his opinion was in substance as follows: "That the tax in question was impracticable and ruinous. The very attempt had so far alienated the affection of the colonies, that they behaved in a less friendly manner towards the natives of England than before, considering the whole nation as conspiring against their liberty, and the parliament was more willing to oppress than to assist and



support them. America, in fact, did not stand in any need of British manufactures, having already begun to construct such as might be deemed absolutely necessary, and that with such success, as left no doubt of their arriving, in a short time, at perfection. The elegancies of dress had already been renounced for American manufactures, though much inferior and the bulk of the people consisting of farmers, were such as could in no way be affected by the want of British commodities, as having every necessary within themselves materials of all kinds were to be had in plenty; the wool was fine, flax grew in great abundance, and iron was every where to be met with." The Doctor also insisted, that "the Americans had been greatly misrepresented; that they had been traduced as void of gratitude and affection to the parent state; than which nothing could be more contrary to truth. In the war in 1755, they had at their own expense raised an army of 25,000 men; and that they assisted the British expeditions against South America, with several thousand men: and had made many brave exertions against the French in North America.

It was said that the war of 1755 had been undertaken in defence of the colonies; but the truth was, that it originated from the contest about the limits between Canada and Nova-Scotia, and in defence of the English rights to trade on the Ohio. The Americans however, would still continue to act with their usual fidelity; and were any war to break out in which they had no concern, they would be ready as ever to assist the parent state to the utmost of their power, and would not fail to manifest their ready acquiescence in

contributing to the government, when called to do so in a regular and constitutional manner.

The ministry were conscious that in repealing this obnoxious act, they yielded to the Americans; and therefore to support, as they thought, the dignity of Great Britain, it was judged proper to publish a declaratory bill, setting forth the authority of the mother country over her colonies, and her power to bind them by laws and statutes in all cases whatsoever. This much diminished the joy with which the repeal of the stamp act was received in America. It was considered a proper season to enforce any claims equally prejudicial with the stamp act, which might hereafter be set up; a spirit of jealousy prevailed the whole continent, and a strong party was formed, determined to guard against the supposed encroachments of British power.

It was not long before an occasion offered, in which the Americans manifested a spirit of absolute independency; and that, instead of being bound by the British legislature in all cases whatsoever, they would not be controlled by it in the most trivial affairs. The Rockingham ministry had passed an act providing the troops stationed in different parts of the colonies with such accommodations as were necessary for them. The assembly of New York, however, took upon them to alter the mode of execution prescribed by the act of parliament, and to substitute one of their own.

This gave very great offence to the new ministry, and rendered them, though composed of those who had been active against the stamp bill, less favourable to the colonies, in all probability, than



they would otherwise have been. An unlucky circumstance at the same time occurred, which threw every thing once more in confusion. One of the new ministers, Charles Townshend, having declared that he could find a way of taxing America, without giving offence; was called upon to propose his plan. This was by imposing a duty upon tea, paper, painters' colours, and glass imported into America. The conduct of the New York assembly, respecting the troops, and that of Boston, which had proceeded in a similar manner, caused this bill to meet with less opposition than otherwise it might have done. As a punishment to the refractory assemblies, the legislative power was taken from New York, until it should fully comply with the terms of the act. That of Boston at last submitted with reluctance. The bill for the new taxes quickly passed, and was sent to America in 1768. A ferment, much greater than that occasioned by the stamp act, now took place throughout the continent. The populace renewed their outrages, and those of superior stations, entered into regular combinations against it.

Circular letters were sent from Massachusetts colony to all the others, setting forth the injustice and impropriety of the behaviour of the British legislature. Meetings were held in all the principal towns. It was proposed to lessen the consumption of all foreign manufactures, by giving proper encouragement to their own. Continual disputes ensued betwixt the governors and general assemblies, which were aggravated by a letter from lord Shelburne, to governor Barnard, of Massachusetts Bay, containing complaints

of the people he governed. The assembly, exasperated to the highest degree charged their governor with having misrepresented them at the court of Britain; required him to produce copies of the letters he had sent; and on his refusal, wrote letters to the English ministry, accusing him of misrepresentation and partiality, complaining at the same time most grievously of the proceedings of parliament, as utterly subversive of the liberties of America, & the rights of British subjects. The governor, at a loss how to defend himself, prorogued the assembly, and in his speech on the occasion, gave a loose to his resentment, accusing the members of ambitious designs, incompatible with those of dutiful and loyal subjects. To counteract the circular letter of the province of Massachusetts Bay, lord Hillsborough, secretary for the American department, sent another letter to the governors of the different colonies, reprobating that sent by the Assembly of Massachusetts Bay, as full of misrepresentation, and tending to excite a rebellion against the parent state.

Matters were now drawing to a crisis. The governor had been ordered to proceed with vigour, and by no means show any disposition to yield to the people as formerly. In particular, they were required to recind that resolution by which they had written the circular letter above mentioned; and in case of a refusal, it was told them that they would be dissolved. As this letter had been framed by the resolutions of a former house, they desired after a week's consultation, that recess might be granted to consult with their constituents; but this being refused, they came to a determination



ation, 92 against 17, to adhere to the resolution which produced the circular letter.

At the same time a letter was sent to lord Hillsborough, and a message to the governor, in justification of their proceedings. In both, they expressed themselves with such freedom, as was by no means calculated to accord with the views of those in power. They insisted they had a right to communicate their sentiments to their fellow subjects upon matters of importance; complained of the requisition to recind the circular letter, as unconstitutional and unjust; and particularly insisted, that they were represented as harbouring seditious designs when they were doing nothing but what was lawful and right. At the same time they condemned the late acts of Parliament as highly oppressive, and subversive of liberty. The whole was concluded by a list of accusations against their governor, representing him as unfit to continue in his station, and petitioning the king for his removal from it.

These proceedings were followed by a violent tumult at Boston. A vessel belonging to a capital trader, had been seized in consequence of his having neglected some of the new regulations, and being taken under the protection of a man of war, at that time lying in the harbour; the populace attacked the houses of the Excise officers, broke their windows, destroyed the collector's boats, and obliged the custom-house officers to take refuge in Castle William, on an island situated at the entrance of the harbour. The governor now took the last step in his power to put a stop to the violent proceedings of the assembly, by dissolving it

entirely; but this was of little moment. Their behaviour had been highly approved of by the other colonies, who had written letters to them, expressive of their approbation.

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## Indian Wars.

consisted of 90 Englishmen and 70 Mohegan and river Indians—the latter commanded by Uncus, sachem of the Mohegans, and the former by Capt. John Mason, who was accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Stone, of Hartford, as chaplain. The Mohegans being detached from the English, on their way to Saybrook, fell in with a considerable body of the enemy, whom they attacked and defeated; they killed 22 and took 18 of them prisoners.

Among the prisoners there was one who was recognized as a perfidious villain; he had lived in the fort with the English some time before, and well understood their language: he remained attached to their interest until the commencement of hostilities with the Pequots, when he deserted the garrison and joined the enemy, whom he served as guide, and through whose instigation many of the English had been captured and put to death. Uncus and his men insisted upon executing him according to the custom of their ancestors, and the English, in the circumstances in which they then were, did not judge it prudent to interfere. The Indians enkindled a fire, near which they confined the prisoner to a stake, in which situation he remained until his skin became parched with the heat; the Mohegans then violently tore him limb from limb, barbarously cut-



ting his flesh in pieces, they handed it round from one to another, eating it, while they sung and danced round the fire in a manner peculiar to savages! The bones and such parts of the unfortunate captive as were not consumed in this dreadful repast, were committed to the flames and consumed to ashes.

On the 19th, Captain Mason and his men proceeded for Narraganset bay, at which place they safely arrived on the 21st. Captain Mason marched immediately to the plantation of Canonicus (a Narraganset sachem) and acquainted him with his designs, and immediately after despatched a messenger to Miantinomi, to inform him likewise of the expedition. The next day Miantinomi, with his chief councillors and warriors met the English—Captain Mason informed him that the cause of his entering his country with an armed force was to avenge the injuries which the Pequots had done the English, and desired a free passage to their forts, which they intended to attack. After a solemn consultation, in the Indian manner, Miantinomi observed that “he highly approved of the expedition, and would send men to assist the English, but that they were too few in number to fight the enemy—that the Pequots were great warriors and rather slighted the English.”

Captain Mason landed his men and marched to the plantation of Miantinomi, which, by previous agreement, was to be the place of general rendezvous; in the evening an Indian runner arrived with information that Captain Patrick, with the men under his command, had arrived at the plantation of Roger Williams, in

Providence, and was desirous that Captain Mason should postpone his march until such time as he could join him; Captain Mason, after mature deliberation, determined however, not to wait his arrival, although a junction was considered important; his men had already been detained much longer than was agreeable to their wishes, and the Mohegans apparently, were impatient for battle. The little army therefore (consisting of 90 Englishmen, 60 Mohegan and river Indians, and about 200 Narragansets) commenced their march on the 24th, and in the evening of that day reached Nihantick, which bounded on the country of the Pequots.—Nihantick was the seat of a Narraganset sachem, who seemed displeased with the expedition, and would not suffer the English to enter his fort. Captain Mason, suspecting the treachery of this fellow, placed a sentinel at night at the entrance of the fort, determined that as he could not be permitted to enter, no one should come out to advise the enemy of his approach.

On the morning of the 25th, Captain Mason was joined by an additional number of the Narragansets and a few of the Nihanticks—they formed a circle, and brandishing their scalping knives, made protestations how gallantly they would fight, and what numbers they would kill, &c. Captain Mason had now under his command near 500 Indians, in addition to his former force, with whom he early resumed his march for the head quarters of the enemy; the day proved uncommonly warm, and the men, through excessive heat and want of provisions, were only enabled by night to reach Paucatuck river; where



the Narragansets began to manifest great fear and to enquire of Captain Mason his real designs; he assured them that "it was to attack the Pequots in their fort!" at which they appeared greatly surprised, and exhibited a disposition to quit the English and return home.

*Wequash*, a Pequot sachem, who had revolted from Sassacus, was the principal guide of the English, and he proved faithful; he gave such information respecting the distance of the forts of the enemy from each other, and the distance they were then from that of the chief sachems, as induced Captain Mason to determine to attack the latter, which his guide represented as situated at the head of Mystic river; he found his men so much fatigued in marching through a pathless wilderness, with their provisions, arms and amunition, that this resolution appeared to be absolutely necessary. The little army accordingly, on the morning of the 26th, proceeded directly for Mystic, and about sun-set penetrated a thick swamp, where (imagining that they could not be far distant from the fort) they pitched their little camp between two large rocks, now known by the name of "Porter's rocks," situated in Groton. The sentinels, who were considerably advanced in front of the main body of the English, distinctly heard the enemy singing and dancing through the night at their fort.

The important day was now approaching when the very existence of CONNECTICUT, was to be determined by the sword in a single action! and to be decided by the valor of less than 100 brave men! About two hours before day the men were aroused from their

slumbers by their officers, and after commending themselves and their cause to the Almighty, proceeded with all possible despatch for the enemy's fort; when within a few rods of the fort, Captain Mason sent for Uncus and Wequash, and desired them in their Indian manner to harangue and prepare their men for combat; they replied that "their men were much afraid, and could not be prevailed upon to advance any further!"—"Go then (said Captain Mason) and request them not to retire, but to surround the fort at any distance they please, and see what courage Englishmen can display!" The day was now dawning, and no time to be lost, the fort was soon in view—the soldiers pressed forward, animated with the reflection that it was not for themselves alone they were about to fight, but for their parents, wives, children and countrymen! As they approached the fort within a short distance, they were discovered by a Pequot sentinel, who roared out "Owanux! Owanux!" (Englishmen! Englishmen!) The troops pressed on, and as the Indians were rallying, poured in upon them the contents of their muskets, and instantly hastening to the principal entrance of the fort, rushed in, sword in hand! An important moment this! for notwithstanding the blaze and thunder of the English, the Pequots made a manly and desperate resistance; sheltered by their Wigwams, and rallied by their sachems and squaws, they defended themselves and in some instances attacked the English with a resolution that would have done honor to Romans!—After a bloody and desperate conflict of near two hours continuance, in which half



hundreds of the Indians were slain, and many of the English killed and wounded, victory still hung in suspense! In this critical state of the action, Captain Mason had recourse to a successful expedient; rushing into a wigwam within the fort, he seized a brand of fire, and in the mean time crying out to his men "*we must burn them!*" communicated it to the mats with which the wigwams were covered, by which means the whole fort was very soon enveloped in flames! as the fire increased the English retired and formed a circle around the fort; the Mohegans and Narragansets who had remained idle spectators to the bloody conflict, now mustered courage sufficient to form another circle in the rear of them: the enemy were now in a deplorable situation, death inevitably was their portion! sallying forth from their burning cells, they were shot or cut to pieces by the English—many of them (perceiving it impossible to escape the vigilance of the troops) threw themselves voluntarily into the flames.

The violence of the flames—the reflection of the light—the clashing and roar of arms—the shrieks and yells of the savages in the fort, and the shoutings of the friendly Indians without, exhibited a grand and awful scene! In less than two hours from the commencement of the bloody action, the English completed their work; eighty wigwams were burnt, and upwards of eight hundred Indians destroyed! parents and children, the man and squaw, the aged and the young, perished in promiscuous ruin! The loss of the English was comparatively trifling, not exceeding 25 killed and wounded.

After the termination of this severe engagement, as the English were proceeded to embark on board their vessels (which fortunately for them at this moment arrived in the harbour) they were attacked in the rear by about 300 of the enemy, who had been despatched from a neighbouring fort to assist their brethren. The English gave them so warm a reception that they soon gave way and fell back to the field of action, where, viewing for a few moments, with apparent marks of horror and surprise the shocking scene which it presented, they stamped, bellowed, and with savage rage, tore their hair from their heads; and then, with a hideous yell, pursued the English as if with a determination to avenge the death of their friends even at the expense of their lives; they pursued the English nearly six miles, sometimes shooting at a distance, from behind rocks and trees, and sometimes pressing hard upon them and hazarding themselves in the open field; the English killed numbers of them but sustained no loss on their part; when a Pequot fell, the Mohegans would cry out, "run and fetch his head!"—The enemy finding at length that they discharged their arrows in vain, and that the English appeared to be well supplied with ammunition, gave over the pursuit.

In less than three weeks from the time the English embarked at Saybrook, they returned (with the exception of the few killed and wounded) in safety to their respective habitations. Few enterprises were ever perhaps achieved with more personal bravery; in few have so great a proportion of the effective men of a whole colony, state or nation, been put to so great and immediate



danger—in few have a people been so deeply and immediately interested as were the English inhabitants of Connecticut at this important crisis; in these respects even the great armaments and battles of Europe are comparatively of little importance, and it ought never to be forgotten, that through the bravery and unconquerable resolution of less than one hundred men, Connecticut was once saved, and the most warlike and terrible tribe of Indians in New-England completely exterminated.

The Pequots that now remained alive, conceiving it useless to inhabit longer a country so exposed to invasion, removed far to the westward; among whom was Sassacus, their principal sachem. On the 25th June, the Connecticut troops under command of Captain Mason, together with a company from Massachusetts, commanded by Captain Stoughton, were sent in pursuit of them; they proceeded westward, and on the 27th fell in with, attacked and defeated a considerable body of them; they took about 50 of them prisoners, among whom were two sachems, whose lives offered them on condition of their serving as guides to the English.

The English on their march frequently fell in with small detached parties of the enemy, whom they captured or destroyed, but could not obtain any information relative to the main body commanded by Sassacus; finding that the two sachem prisoners would not give them the information required, they on the 29th beheaded them at a place called Menunkatuck (now Guilford) from which circumstance the place still bears the name of "Sachem's head." The English on the 30th, arrived

at Quinnipiak (Now-Haven) where they were informed by a friendly Pequot that the enemy were encamped in a swamp, a few miles to the westward; the troops pushed forward, and on the succeeding day arrived at the border of said swamp, which they found a thicket so extremely boggy as to render it inaccessible to any one but the natives; the English, therefore, thought it most advisable to surround the swamp and annoy the enemy as opportunity presented; the Indians, after a few skirmishes, requested a parley, which being granted them, *Thomas Stanton* (interpreter to the English) was sent to treat with them; he was authorised to offer life to such as had not shed the blood of Englishmen; upon which the sachem of the place, together with about 300 of his tribe, came out, and producing satisfactory proof of their innocence, were permitted to retire; but the Pequots boldly declared that "they had both shed and drank the blood of Englishmen, and would not upon such terms accept of life, but would fight it out!" The English, unwilling to brook the threats and insulting language of the Pequots, attempted now to devise means to attack the whole body of them without further delay; the officers were however, divided in opinion as to the mode of attack—some were for setting fire to the swamp, others for cutting their way through with hatchets, and others for surrounding it with hatchets, and others for surrounding it with a high fence or pallisado; neither of which plans were however fully adopted; as night approached the English cut through a part of the swamp, by which means its circumference was much less